

Appl. No.: 09/963,360
Amdt. Dated: 06/28/2005
Off. Act. Dated: 02/28/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 31-33, 35-39 and 59-61.

2. Rejection of Claims 19-22, 24-27, 29-30, 40-42, 44-51, 53-58 and 62-68

Claims 19-22, 24-27, 29-30, 40-42, 44-51, 53-58 and 62-68 were rejected under various grounds. In response, the Applicant has canceled the rejected claims. Therefore, the rejections are now moot.

3. Allowability of New Claims

New Claims 69-76 depend from allowed independent Claim 31 and new Claims 77-80 depend from allowed Claim 59. Therefore Claims 69-80 are allowable since they depend from an independent claim that was allowed. In addition, the subject matter of each of the new Claims 69-80 is supported by the specification. In particular, the third (or more) drying zones are described on page 11 and other pages of the specification.

Heat exchangers and the use of an inert gas such as nitrogen are described on page 13 of the specification. Means for separating the dried material from the substrate is shown in FIG. 6 and page 16 of the specification. The recycling of heated air is also described on page 16 of the specification and one embodiment is illustrated in FIG. 7.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the new dependent Claims 69-80 are allowable.

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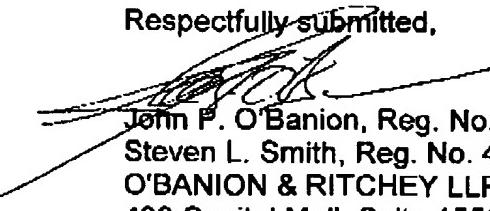
4. Conclusion.

In view of the above, the new claims and each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

The Applicant also respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner in the event that there are questions regarding this response, or if the next action on the merits is not an allowance of all pending claims.

Date: 6/28/05

Respectfully submitted,


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